

**Records of the Committee on
Interior and Insular Affairs
RG.233.95.IIA
95th Congress**

**Finding aid prepared by Office of Art and Archives,
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Rules for Archival Description

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Summary Information

Repository	Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration
Title	Records of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs
Date	1977-1978
Extent	135.2 Cubic feet (circa 338 archival boxes)
Language	English

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Natural Resources can trace its jurisdictional history to the House Committee on Public Lands, which was created on December 17, 1805, on a motion by Representative William Findley, a Democratic-Republican from Pennsylvania. Its jurisdiction would not change until the 1940s.

In the 80th Congress, after the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, various committee jurisdictions were combined into the Committee on Public Lands in the House. In particular, five former standing Committees from the 19th and early 20th century were combined into the House Committee on Public Lands. These five committees, along with years they were created, were Territories (1825), Mines and Mining (1865), Indian Affairs (1821), Irrigation and Reclamation (1893), and Insular Affairs (1899). After the 82nd Congress, on February 2, 1951, the House Committee on Public Lands was renamed the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, which later became the House Committee on Natural Resources. In the 104th Congress (1995), the jurisdiction of the House Merchant Marines and Fisheries Committee (1887) was transferred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

The Committee has always been tasked with overseeing the nation's public lands. The panel also oversees water projects, many environmental issues and even management of wildlife refuges. The committee is crucial to Representatives with many of the nation's public lands in its districts, especially those from the West.

Scope and Contents note

Records document the work of the committee during the 95th Congress, primarily through its published work product. The largest series of records are bills referred to the committee. Subjects of note include surface mining, the establishment of Redwood National Forest, and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

Arrangement note

Records are arranged into series legislative files, bill files, official communications, oversight hearings and meetings, meeting minutes, and minority files. Any discernible series arrangement is noted therein.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration

Rule VII

The records are governed by Rule VII(3)b of the House Rules: (b) (1) A record shall immediately be made available if it was previously made available for public use by the House or a committee or a subcommittee. (2) An investigative record that contains personal data relating to a specific living person (the disclosure of which would be an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy), an administrative record relating to personnel, or a record relating to a hearing that was closed under clause 2(g)(2) of rule XI shall be made available if it has been in existence for 50 years. (3) A record for which a time, schedule, or condition for availability is specified by order of the House shall be made available in accordance with that order. Except as otherwise provided by order of the House, a record of a committee for which a time, schedule, or condition for availability is specified by order of the committee (entered during the Congress in which the record is made or acquired by the committee) shall be made available in accordance with the order of the committee. (4) A record (other than a record referred to in subparagraph (1), (2), or (3)) shall be made available if it has been in existence for 30 years.

Controlled Access Headings

Subject(s)

- Strip mining

Legislative files

Collection Inventory

Legislative files (1975-1976) (5 archival boxes)**Scope and Contents note**

Surface mining files from the 94th Congress.

Bill files (127 archival boxes)**Scope and Contents note**

Bill files related to H.R. 2 (Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act), including printed hearings, transcripts, related bills, reports, and public law; H.R. 39 (Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act), including reports and printed hearings, transcripts, correspondence, and material submitted for the record; H.R. 1609 (Coal Pipeline Act) bills and printed hearings and transcripts; H.R. 3454 (Endangered American Wilderness Act), including bills and transcripts and correspondence; H.R. 3813 (An Act to amend the act of October 2, 1968, an act to establish a Redwood National Park in the State of California, and for other purposes); as well other bills referred to the committee.

Official communications (26 archival boxes)**Scope and Contents note**

Executive communications and petitions and memorials.

Oversight hearings and meetings (17 archival boxes)

Meeting minutes

Scope and Contents note

Oversight hearings and meetings not related to specific legislation.

Arrangement note

Files are arranged by full committee and subcommittee and chronologically therein.

Meeting minutes (62 archival boxes)

Scope and Contents note

Full committee and subcommittee meeting minutes. Final committee legislative calendar included.

Arrangement note

Minutes are arranged by full committee and subcommittee and chronologically therein.

Minority (94 archival boxes)

Scope and Contents note

Legislative files and public laws, including testimony, transcripts, related hearings, reports, and correspondence. Oversight files on miscellaneous subjects in the committee's jurisdiction. Administrative files.